

Message Text

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64

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TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, PARM, UN, UR, IR

SUBJ: UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: MOON TREATY CONSULTATIONS

1. AT REQUEST OF SOVIET DELEGATION, UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) CHAIRMAN JANKOWITSCH (AUSTRIA) CONDUCTED INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS JULY 3 ON REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES OF MOON TREATY. ABOUT A DOZEN DELEGATIONS ATTENDED ONE-HOUR MEETING. FOREIGN MINISTRY LEGAL OFFICER TUERK, WHO HAD REPRESENTED AUSTRIA AT LEGAL SUBCOMITTEE, BEGAN DISCUSSION WITH BRIEF SUMMARY OF REMAINING ISSUES. USSR DELOFF MAIORSKY EXPLAINED THAT SOVS HAD PRESSED FOR MEETING TO PROPOSE AGAIN THAT BEST SOLUTION TO DEADLOCK IN NEGOTIATIONS COULD LIE IN DROPPING ISSUE OF NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THIS TREATY AND ADDRESSING QUESTION AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM IN LEGAL SUBCOMITTEE. SOV DELOFF ALSO NOTED HE WAS NOT REFERRING TO PROSPECTIVE TREATY AS TREATY ON THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES. (COMMENT: THUS AT LEAT INFORMALLY CONCEDING THAT USSR ACCEPTS US AND OTHERS' POSITION ON EXPANDED TREATY SCOPE; HOWEVER, HOW THIS IS TO BE FORMULATED COULD REMAIN AT ISSUE.)

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2. IRANIAN DELOFF STRONGLY STATED VIEW THAT INCLUSION OF

NATURAL RESOURCES PROVISION IS ESSENTIAL TO APPROVAL OF MOON TREATY. HE ASSERTED THAT ASSURANCE OF LATER CONSIDERATION OF RESOURCES SUBJECT COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON. AS EVINced BY CONTINUING FAILURE OF SUPERPOWERS TO FULFILL THEIR PLEDGE IN 1963 LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY TO AGREE ON COMPREHENSIVE BAN. USSR DELOFF PROMPTLY CRITICIZED APPROPRIATENESS OF THIS COMPARISON, AS DID US DELOFF LATER IN BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH IRANIAN DELOFF.

3. US DELOFF (HOSENBALL) NOTED LACK OF IMMEDIATE NEED FOR REGULATING EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES, AND SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO ADOPT THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF DRAFT TREATY, WHICH MAY HAVE RELEVANCE MUCH SOONER, WITHOUT AWAITING RESOLUTION OF RESOURCES ISSUE.

4. AFTER SEVERAL OTHER DELOFFS COMMENTED IN LOW KEY MANNER THAT IN ANY CASE DECISION COULD NOT BE MADE AT THIS SESSION, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT DELS SHOULD INTEGRATE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF DROPPING NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE INTO THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION NEXT YEAR AS ONE POTENTIAL WAY TO COMPLETE CONSIDERATION OF MOON TREATY THEN. NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED, AND SOV DELOFF INDICATED HE WOULD NOT REQUEST FURTHER EFFORTS DURING THIS SESSION OF OSC.
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